



BUILDING ON EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS.

Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health Legislative Update 2006

www.idahosystemofcare.org

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The Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health

The Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health (ICCMH), chaired by Lieutenant Governor Jim Risch, supports positive outcomes for children in Idaho by encouraging child-serving agencies and organizations to meet high standards of care. The ICCMH also governs the federal cooperative agreement, "Building on Each Other's Strengths," a project to support system of care development and the Wraparound approach to serving children and families.

What is "Wraparound"?

"Wraparound" is a practical way to organize community resources for families and children.



How does it work?

Families affected by Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) often receive services and support from many places. In our system of care, a "Wraparound" specialist works with families, professionals,

and others to pull services and support into one comprehensive treatment plan. The plan is based on the strengths of the child and family.

A plan may include crisis intervention, counseling, recreation, or transportation to work for a parent. Wraparound is effective in many other systems of care throughout the country. The Department of Health and Welfare provides eight wraparound specialists for the state.

Did you know.....

Children involved in system of care for several years have improved school attendance, performance, and social skills.
(Evaluation of Comprehensive Services, Annual Report to Congress: 1999)

What is a Serious Emotional Disturbance?

Many children in Idaho are affected by Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED).

A Serious Emotional Disturbance is defined as a child under the age of 18 [or 21 if served by an Individualized Education Program (IEP)], presenting with a diagnosable condition as determined by the DSM-IV or DSM-IV-TR. A substance abuse disorder or developmental disorder, alone, does not constitute a serious emotional disturbance although one or more of these two disorders may co-exist with a serious emotional disorder. Additionally, the child must have a functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in the family, community or school. The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) or the Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale (PECFAS) will measure functional impairment. A score of 80 or above indicates a substantial functional impairment.

Note: The adoption of this definition of SED by the ICCMH does not affect an individual agency's criteria for services.

What is a system of care?

A system of care is a parent-driven network of schools, advocacy organizations, public and private agencies working together to meet the needs of families and children. Children's Mental Health Councils are a part of this network, serving more than 300 families in 2005. Councils identify community resources for families and provide education about mental health.

Michael's Success Story

Michael (not his real name) was arrested for being aggressive with family members and threatening to hurt himself. Later on, he was admitted to the hospital. After leaving the hospital, Michael was referred to a Wraparound specialist.

He was very resistant to getting any help. His "Wraparound" team met with him and talked about ways to support him while

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building on his strengths.

Michael became a part of the process, and helped create his own plan to keep him on the right track. His plan includes a scheduled time each day to talk to his mom, taking his prescribed medication, and recreation at the YMCA.

His outcomes are tremendous. Over the last three and a half months, Michael has not been hospitalized and the police have not come to his home. Michael is excelling in his special education classes, and even attending 75 percent of regular classes.

Excerpts from the 2005 Community Report Department of Health and Welfare

Health and Welfare provides assessments, case management, outpatient services, therapeutic foster care, residential care, respite care, day treatment, inpatient hospital services, crisis response, and family supports to children with SED. The number of children served, with the exception of respite care, has increased since 2004 for each service.

Department of Education

According to the December 2004 child count, 1,234 students were identified as emotionally disturbed (ED), compared to 1,167 in 2003. Increased numbers are due to federal requirements for individualized educational plans, an increase in awareness of SED, and more training for educators.

Department of Juvenile Corrections. Thirty percent of all juveniles in DJC custody were identified as SED, consistent with 2004. Nearly 37% of children in Idaho detention centers have a mental health diagnosis.

Agency and Organization Collaboration

Juvenile Justice/Children's Mental Health

The purpose of this workgroup is to collaborate and cooperate in planning and developing comprehensive services for children with serious emotional disturbance at risk of, or involved in, the juvenile justice system. Members of the group provide updates to the ICCMH on a monthly basis. Participants in the workgroup include representatives from Health and Welfare,

Education, Detention, Federation of Families, judges, County Probation, a parent and Juvenile Justice.



See "The World Through our Eyes" Art Display

This display debuts at the State Capitol building, second floor, January 9-17, 19-20 before going on a statewide tour. It features artwork by children with SED and others from across the state. The display is part of a statewide anti-stigma campaign.

Status on Jeff D. Lawsuit

Judge Winmill held a Jeff D. status conference in July 2004. At that conference, The State of Idaho (Defendants) requested a compliance hearing to give them an opportunity to prove compliance with court orders and plans. Jeff D. attorneys (Plaintiffs) asked for an expert witness/Special Master to determine compliance due to the complexity of the case, at the expense of the Defendants. The Defendants objected to this idea.

In August 2004, Judge Winmill issued an order to show cause for an independent expert witness. Defendants and Plaintiffs were ordered to submit a joint statement of arguments on action items within the court plan and which ones were in compliance.

In July 2005, the U.S. District Court ordered a status conference. The order determined that a Special Master would not be appointed, and there was no mention of an expert witness. Plaintiffs examined the information in November 2005, and a status conference will be held in December.

A report of undisputed facts will be filed January 2006, and oral arguments will be held February 2006. It is anticipated that the Defendants and Plaintiffs will be preparing for a summer compliance hearing. The U.S. District court has made it clear that the Jeff D. case will be completely resolved and dismissed in the next year, without further opportunities for the State to come into compliance.

To view the 2005 Community and Governor's Report, and more, visit:

www.idahosystemofcare.org

Go to "Information" and click "Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health," "Reports."